



Communications Government Coordinating Council Charter

1. Official Designation

The official designation of this Council is the “Communications Government Coordinating Council,” hereinafter referred to as the “CGCC.” The CGCC is a voluntary, advisory committee that is not appointed any decision-making authority.

2. Authorities and Background

The CGCC operates under the auspices of two primary authorities: (1) Presidential Policy Directive 21 (PPD-21), *Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience*; and (2) the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). In accordance with PPD-21, the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C) coordinates the Nation’s cyber and communications engagement initiatives with relevant Federal departments and agencies (D/A) and collaborates with critical infrastructure owners and operators; independent regulatory agencies; and State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) entities, as appropriate. To provide a foundation for such initiatives, DHS’ Office of Infrastructure Protection coordinated the development of the NIPP along with its recent 2013 update. The NIPP is a government and industry-developed national plan that sets forth a comprehensive risk management framework and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities for DHS; Sector-Specific Agencies (SSA); and other Federal, SLTT, and private sector partners engaging in critical infrastructure protection (CIP) efforts.

3. Membership, Working Groups, and Meetings

The CGCC consists of representatives from across various levels of government, including Federal and SLTT entities, to enable interagency, intergovernmental, and cross-jurisdictional coordination within and across the Communications Sector. The CGCC works with the Communications Sector Coordinating Council (CSCC), a self-organized, self-run, and self-governed private sector council consisting of owners and operators and their representatives from across the sector’s segments, including wireline, wireless, cable, satellite, and broadcasting. The CGCC/CSCC partnership serves as the principal collaboration point between the Communications Sector government and private industry members to effectively engage in sector-specific CIP policy, coordination, information sharing, and planning; cybersecurity; and risk management.

The CGCC reserves the right to invite participants from all levels of government to meet the expertise requirements necessary to fulfill any activity. SLTT representatives may join all CGCC meetings and activities following approval from the CGCC Chair. Federal D/As should inform the Industry Engagement and Resilience (IER) Branch, which is part of CS&C’s Stakeholder Engagement and Cyber Infrastructure Resilience (SECIR) Division and manages CGCC activities, of their interest to join the CGCC so that they can be formally recognized as official members. IER currently maintains the list of CGCC members.

CGCC Working Groups are established when substantial investigation, research, or other tasks are required that cannot be achieved via regular CGCC meetings. All CGCC Working Group products are meant to advise CGCC members on various issues and processes. The CGCC Chair will designate Working Group Chairs and Co-Chairs either by nomination or through volunteering.

The CGCC Chair will convene CGCC meetings, either in the form of in-person meetings or teleconference calls, on an as-needed basis.

4. Scope

A collaborative and productive CGCC is critical to building and maintaining beneficial partnerships, as well as developing useful and actionable products (e.g., analyses, reports, plans, etc.) that inform communications response, recovery, and risk management strategies and processes. The CGCC actively pursues several types of activities, which include but are not limited to:

- A. Identifying, prioritizing, and coordinating the Communications Sector's CIP and resiliency activities with a range of public and private sector stakeholders;
- B. Identifying needs and/or gaps in current communications-related CIP plans, programs, policies, procedures, and strategies, as well as measuring their effectiveness;
- C. Promoting awareness of current Communications Sector activities within the sector and across the other critical infrastructure sectors; and
- D. Inviting Federal and SLTT representatives to share their experiences, ideas, best practices, and innovative approaches related to communications CIP and resiliency.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The table below details the roles and responsibilities for each CGCC component.

CGCC Component	Roles and Responsibilities
DHS, CS&C, SECIR, IER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as the CGCC Chair (as the CS&C-designated branch serving as the SSA for the Communications Sector); • Facilitate the CGCC's interaction and collaboration with the CCCC; • Collect, discuss, and review NIPP-related issues from the CCCC, CGCC, and other Federal and SLTT D/A representatives; • Initiate or bring issues to the CGCC for consideration, deliberation, and resolution; • Establish a CGCC leadership framework and process; • Provide meeting and organizational support, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coordinate meeting material development (e.g., agendas, summaries, etc.); – Support the CGCC's efforts to monitor and close issues and initiatives; – Provide administrative and logistical support to the CGCC (e.g., meeting room facility coordination, day-of meeting support, summary development, etc.); and – Promote information sharing through collaborative mechanisms, such as the DHS Homeland Security Information Network.
CGCC Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the CGCC Chair, CS&C, and other CGCC members to develop strategic communications for CIP planning and coordination, and facilitate the discussion and resolution of CIP-related issues; • Enhance the foundation for protective programs with sector partners; • Lend subject matter expertise to the CGCC to identify and prioritize sector challenges and risks; • Coordinate with, and support select efforts of, the CCCC to plan, implement, and execute the Nation's communications CIP mission; • Participate in planning, developing, implementing, updating, and revising the Communications Sector-Specific Plan and Sector Annual Report; and • Collaborate with private and public sector partners to share CIP-related information (e.g., experiences, best practices, lessons learned, etc.) within the Communications Sector, as appropriate.